**Defense Department Plans New Intelligence Gathering Service**

**By** [**ERIC SCHMITT**](http://topics.nytimes.com/top/reference/timestopics/people/s/eric_schmitt/index.html?inline=nyt-per) **Published: April 23, 2012 NYTimes.com**

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon is revamping its spy operations to focus on high-priority targets like Iran and China in a reorganization that reflects a shift away from the war zones of [Iraq](http://topics.nytimes.com/top/news/international/countriesandterritories/iraq/index.html?inline=nyt-geo) and [Afghanistan](http://topics.nytimes.com/top/news/international/countriesandterritories/afghanistan/index.html?inline=nyt-geo) that have dominated America’s security landscape for the past decade.

Under the plan approved last week by Defense Secretary [Leon E. Panetta](http://topics.nytimes.com/top/reference/timestopics/people/p/leon_e_panetta/index.html?inline=nyt-per), case officers from the new Defense Clandestine Service would work more closely with counterparts from the [Central Intelligence Agency](http://topics.nytimes.com/top/reference/timestopics/organizations/c/central_intelligence_agency/index.html?inline=nyt-org) at a time when the military and spy agency are increasingly focused on similar threats.

“It will thicken our coverage across the board,” said a senior [Defense Department](http://www.defense.gov/) official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss with a small group of reporters on Monday what he called a “realignment” of the military’s human espionage efforts. Case officers from the [Defense Intelligence Agency](http://www.dia.mil/) already secretly gather intelligence on a range of global issues — including terrorism and weapons proliferation — typically working out of C.I.A. stations in American embassies and undercover like their C.I.A. counterparts.

But a classified study completed last year by the director of national intelligence found that while the D.I.A. was effectively conducting its traditional, and much larger, mission of providing intelligence to troops and commanders in war zones, it needed to focus more attention outside the battlefields on what is called “national intelligence” — gathering and distributing information on global issues and sharing that intelligence with other agencies.

The senior Defense Department official said the new intelligence service aimed to ensure that “officers are in the right locations to pursue those requirements.” The official declined to give specific examples of where such shifts might occur, but the United States in recent years has increasingly focused on counterterrorism and nonproliferation. The Obama administration has also begun to focus on security issues in Asia, including rising powers like China.

# U.S. Sets New Sanctions Against Technology for Syria and Iran

###### By [PETER BAKER](http://topics.nytimes.com/top/reference/timestopics/people/b/peter_baker/index.html?inline=nyt-per) Published: April 23, 2012 NYTimes.com

WASHINGTON — President Obama moved to tighten sanctions on [Syria](http://topics.nytimes.com/top/news/international/countriesandterritories/syria/index.html?inline=nyt-geo) and [Iran](http://topics.nytimes.com/top/news/international/countriesandterritories/iran/index.html?inline=nyt-geo) on Monday by taking aim at those who provide their authoritarian governments with technology to track down dissidents for abuse, torture or death.

The measures underscored the role that computers, social media and cellphones have played in the recent political upheavals in the Middle East, not just in organizing resistance to entrenched leaders, but also in helping security services crack down on protesters. The president’s action is meant to put on notice individuals and companies that provide the technology that enables human rights abuses.

The announcement came as Mr. Obama continues to search for a more effective response to the killings in Syria, where more than 9,000 people have died over the past year as the government of President Bashar al-Assad has tried to suppress a popular uprising. Critics have described Mr. Obama’s response as too passive and have called for more robust action to halt the violence. Mr. Obama argued Monday that the focus on technology reflected an ever-widening set of actions that would eventually stop Mr. Assad.

“These technologies should be in place to empower citizens, not to repress them,” Mr. Obama said in a speech at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. “It’s one more step that we can take toward the day that we know will come, the end of the Assad regime that has brutalized the Syrian people.”

The new measures reflect the rapidly evolving nature of the political struggles in the Middle East. “I’m sure countries like Sudan, Syria and others are watching closely what’s happening on Facebook,” said Michael Abramowitz, director of the Holocaust museum’s Committee on Conscience. “They don’t need to send plainclothes men to follow activists anymore. They can follow them online.”

# U.S. Delays Somalia Aid, Fearing It Is Feeding Terrorists

By [JEFFREY GETTLEMAN](http://topics.nytimes.com/top/reference/timestopics/people/g/jeffrey_gettleman/index.html?inline=nyt-per) Published: October 1, 2009 NYTimes.com

DOCOL, Somalia — One in five Somali children is wasting away from malnutrition. Tens of thousands need urgent medical care to survive. The whole middle belt of the country is teetering on the brink of famine. [United Nations](http://topics.nytimes.com/top/reference/timestopics/organizations/u/united_nations/index.html?inline=nyt-org) officials say [Somalia](http://topics.nytimes.com/top/news/international/countriesandterritories/somalia/index.html?inline=nyt-geo) has not been in such perilous shape since the central government collapsed in 1991 and is in desperate need of help.

But right now that help is being delayed, they say, at least partly because the American government is worried that its aid is going to feed terrorists.

American officials are concerned that United Nations contractors may be funneling American donations to the [Shabab](http://topics.nytimes.com/top/reference/timestopics/organizations/s/al-shabab/index.html?inline=nyt-org), a Somali terrorist group with growing ties to [Al Qaeda](http://topics.nytimes.com/top/reference/timestopics/organizations/a/al_qaeda/index.html?inline=nyt-org). United Nations officials say the American government has been withholding millions of dollars in aid shipments while a new set of rules is worked out to better police the distribution of aid.

Few aid officials believe that the American government will actually shut off the spigot of life-saving assistance to Somalia when a punishing drought is sweeping across the region. But at least $50 million in American aid has been delayed as talks continue, United Nations officials said. Meanwhile, there is only enough emergency food to last Somalia four more weeks, they said.

“The potential damage is huge,” said Kiki Gbeho, the head coordinator of United Nations humanitarian operations in Somalia, during a visit to a drought-stricken area on Thursday.

Overall aid funds were drastically down this year, even before the American government postponed its usually hefty contributions, Ms. Gbeho said. As a result, disease-prevention programs had to be cut, and “if you don’t give funding to Al Shabab areas, that’s 60 percent of the people,” she added.

American officials defended their actions on Thursday. One State Department official said the amount of withheld aid was less than $50 million, though the official would not say exactly how much.

“We were compelled to hold up that amount once there were legitimate concerns that the aid might be being diverted,” said the official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, saying he was not authorized to be named. “We have to follow the law.”

The official emphasized that the delays had not caused any interruptions in [food aid](http://topics.nytimes.com/top/reference/timestopics/subjects/f/food_aid/index.html?inline=nyt-classifier) delivery, something United Nation officials confirmed, though they said the uninterrupted flow of emergency food into Somalia was possible only because of leftovers from last year’s budget and agencies’ borrowing from themselves until new money comes in. The State Department also says that it plans to resume full shipments and that the delayed aid will be distributed soon.

Elders here in Docol, in central Somalia, say they are running out of time and nearly finished with their emergency rations, which they often share with their animals because the drought has killed all the pasture land.

**Task: For each article, identify the foreign policy goal the US is/was working toward and to what extent it is/was achieved. Use your best judgment for this activity, you aren’t expected to know everything about foreign policy!**